

00862.002914.



# 13  
03/19/04  
PATENT APPLICATION

*Ref/Amend/O*

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
MASAMI KATO )  
Application No.: 09/343,183 )  
Filed: June 30, 1999 )  
For: DATA COMMUNICATION )  
CONTROL APPARATUS AND )  
METHOD, AND DATA )  
COMMUNICATION SYSTEM :  
Examiner: Q. Nguyen  
Group Art Unit: 2141  
March 9, 2004

**RECEIVED**

**MAR 12 2004**

Technology Center 2100

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) being filed concurrently herewith, please amend the above-identified application as follows: